

COLORADO

SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE



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USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office
P.O. Box 150969
Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone(303)236-2300

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CATTLE ON FEED

COLORADO

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,040,000 head as of April 1, 2009. The latest inventory was the same as last month but 2 percent above last year's inventory. The inventory included 670,000 steers and steer calves, up 12 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 365,000 head, was down 12 percent from last year. The number of cows and bulls in the feedlot inventory, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from last month and a year ago. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 155,000 head of fed cattle during March 2009. This was 6 percent below the previous month's marketings and 3 percent below marketings one year earlier. An estimated 165,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, down 13 percent from February 2009 placements but up 22 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in March, 12 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 15 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 33 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 39 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 10,000 head, was 5,000 head higher from last month and last year.

UNITED STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on April 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below April 1, 2008. The inventory included 6.98 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.12 million head, down 4 percent from 2008. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 4 percent above 2008. Net placements were 1.75 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 300,000, 600-699 pounds were 340,000, 700-799 pounds were 592,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 570,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.83 million, 1 percent below 2008. Other disappearance totaled 50,000 during March, 21 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of March since the series began in 1996.